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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P. Coleman, et al.

Group Art No.: 1645

Serial No.: 09/821,877

Examiner: (not yet assigned)

Filed: March 30, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the:

Title: A HEPATITIS B VIRUS  
SURFACE ANTIGEN MUTANT AND  
METHODS OF DETECTION THEREOF

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Case No.: 6794.US.01

Date of Deposit: September 20, 2001

Tanya Benavidez 9/20/01  
Tanya Benavidez Date

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraphs on page 7, lines 9-14 with the following replacement paragraphs:

Figure 3 represents the nucleic acid sequence of the small HBsAg envelope protein for subtype ayw<sub>2</sub> wildtype HBV virus (SEQ ID NO:3).

Figure 4 represents the alignment and translation of the nucleotide sequence of the mutant and wildtype ayw<sub>2</sub> small envelope proteins (SEQ ID NO:6), (SEQ ID NO:7) and (SEQ ID NO:8).